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January 23, 2002

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

RE: Comments on the Microsoft Proposed Settlement Agreement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

It goes without saying that the settlement agreement between the U.S. Government and Microsoft comes at a critical time when our economy and nation most need reconciliation.

Microsoft is a company that has long provided good products to consumer and businesses, and it provides opportunities for other software companies as well to develop programs for the Windows platform. The provisions of the settlement, worked out with one of the nation's top mediators, will be good for consumers, businesses, the tech sector and the economy as a whole.

I fully support the Department of Justice and the nine Attorneys General for their efforts to finally put an end to this case and agree to a settlement that is in our nation's best interest. I congratulate you on developing a strong but fair settlement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darryl C. Towns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Darryl C. Towns
Member of Assembly